

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL AS & A LEVEL

History 9489

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

Understanding the whole syllabus

History connects knowledge of events with explanations of why they happened and why they mattered. Sources and interpretations provide evidence, but they must be understood in context. The syllabus separates broad developments from deeper study, and the selected options determine the material you need to know.

For History 9489, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
AS: Choice of regional option	At AS Level, you choose one of three regional options.
AS: Modern European History	Modern European History examines revolutionary France, German liberalism and nationalism, and Russia's movement from autocracy to revolution.
AS: American History	The American option explores the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and the Great Crash, Depression and New Deal.
AS: International History	The International option examines imperialism and emerging world powers, international relations during the 1920s, and the rise of extremism and road to war during the 1930s.
A Level Paper 3: Interpretations option	For A Level, Paper 3 focuses on one topic: the origins of the First World War, the Holocaust, or the origins and development of the Cold War.
A Level Paper 4: Regional depth study	For Paper 4, you choose one regional depth study covering either Europe from 1919 to 1941, the United States from 1945 to 1993, or international history from 1909 to 1994.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Build a secure chronology for the selected options, then connect events through causation, change and significance. Revisit source and essay skills alongside content rather than treating them as separate last-minute revision. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

Qualification route	Components	Meaning
AS Level only	1 and 2	Standalone AS qualification, graded a-e
Staged A Level	1 and 2 first; then 3 and 4	Carry forward eligible AS marks within Cambridge rules and time limits
Full A Level in one series	1, 2, 3, 4	All required components; A Level graded A*-E

AS and A Level percentages refer to different qualification totals. A component can therefore have one weighting at AS and a different weighting in the full A Level. Confirm the entry option and any carry-forward arrangements with the centre.

Choose one AS regional option and its prescribed topics, then one Paper 3 interpretations topic and one Paper 4 depth-study option for A Level. The subject is not available in every administrative zone and is unavailable in the United States from 2027; confirm eligibility for the intended centre and series.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Historical knowledge	Select accurate subject knowledge, terminology and examples that answer the question, and explain their meaning.
AO2 Historical explanation, analysis and judgement	Interpret the information, apply an appropriate method and explain the relationships or reasoning that support the answer.
AO3 Historical sources	Interpret and evaluate sources in context, using appropriate historical knowledge.
AO4 Historical interpretations	Analyse how and why historians interpret the past differently, using the supplied interpretation and relevant context.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.